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TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: DATA ELEMENTS REQUIRED

Database of Geographical Names in Poland

Paper submitted by Poland**

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The aim of the Database of Geographical Names is to collect, store, organize and provide access to the geographical names of places in Poland and information related to them.

The database of names of localities and physiographic objects is located at the Main Centre of Geodetic and Cartographic Documentation, affiliated to the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography in Warsaw. This database is accessible for all users who need information on geographical names. The work on the creation of the database commenced in 1995.

Collection of names and associated information is the main task of first phase of the work. Topographic 1:10 000 maps prepared by the State Geodetic and Cartographic Service constitute the main source of information on geographical names. At present, this is the most complete and up-to-date material in the country, enabling location of spatial data.

The second stage of the work includes correction and revision of the data collected from topographic maps through their comparison with lists of official names.

Types of information included in the database

I. Name - full name without abbreviations. If the name consists of several words and begins with a term describing type of object, (in the case of place-names e.g. settlement, forester's lodge; in the case of physiographic objects - lake, hill, stream), then the first part of the name describing type of object is placed at the end, after comma, for instance: *Dolnośląskie, Bory*. This is useful, since it facilitates the search. A name cannot exceed 50 characters.

II. Case ending for the possessive case - this has been included to guide the reader through the complexities of declension in the Polish language.

III. Colloquial name of object - rules for entering are similar to those for full name. It concerns localities and physiographic objects (in particular rivers), for which several different local names are given in various sources.

IV. Type of object - two categories of geographical objects have been distinguished, namely **localities** and **physiographic objects**.

V. Status of the name - information on whether the name is a formally accepted one.

VI. Source of spelling information - in form of a code, provided for both groups of objects, i.e. localities and physiographic objects, identifies the source of information on the spelling of a word.

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Space is also provided for various **remarks**.. During the first phase of work such remarks may concern inaccuracies found in the data collected from topographic maps or may provide more precise information on the type of object, e.g. whether a protected area is a meadow or a forest; whether there is a large amount of dilapidated buildings in a village etc.

For **localities** the following **additional** entries are planned:

a) Type of locality, i.e. town, village, district of a town, locality's administrative function.

b) Number of inhabitants is given with the accuracy to the nearest 10 inhabitants. The programme automatically selects one of 14 fonts designated to distinguish the size of a locality in accordance with rules for new edition of 1: 10 000 maps. When the precise number of inhabitants is not known, only a range is given.

c) Statistical code - allocating the place to a particular **administrative unit**. (In view of the likelihood of changes of administrative boundaries a possibility of updating has been provided). At present, the statistical code for localities consists of 12 digits: first two digits denote voivodship, next three the commune (gmina), the remaining digits denote the particular locality. Full names of administrative units are also given.

c) **Location of object** is given in geographical coordinates of the approximate centre of the locality with 1" accuracy. This data is entered directly from maps with the use of digitizer.

Three types of **additional** information will characterize **physiographic objects:**

a) **Type** of physiographic object, e.g. marsh, swamp, forest, etc. (40 categories in all)
b) **Territorial identification** - given by a string of symbols denoting voivodship and commune (gmina).
c) **Geographical location** - given with the accuracy of 1", same as for localities. Spatial objects will be characterized by coordinates of their centres, while canals and rives by the coordinates of their beginning and end. The coordinates of intersections of rivers and canals with the frames of 1:10 000 maps will also be given. When the source or mouth of a river is outside of Poland, the coordinates will correspond to the intersection of a channel with the boundary of Poland.

The data from about 5 500 map sheets in the scale of 1:10 000 has been already entered into the database. This constitutes approximately 72 000

geographical names. Four thousand map sheets covering central, south and south-eastern Poland are still being processed.

Types of information entered into the database of geographical names

No	Name of object	Ending of name possess. case	Col-loquial name	Type of object	Sta-tus	Number of popu-lation	Statis-tical code	Geogra-phical coordi-nates		Source of spelling informa-tion	Formalsta-tus of name
								Lat.	Lon.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	12	13	14	15

Examples of information printout:

Ciosaniec colloquial name:-; locality: village: name approved; number of inhabitants: 630; statistical code:-; voiv. (97) zielonogórskie; comm. (97681) Sława; No of unit: 97681
coordinates of centre of object: Lat.=51° 56' 52" Long.=16°02'08"
No remarks
No source of information
Ending of possessive case: -ńca

Czarny Las customary name:-; physiographic object: forest range; not approved name; voiv. (41) leszczyńskie; comm. (41629) Święciechowa; No of unit: 41629;
coordinates of centre of object:-;
Remarks: part of a forest
No source of information
Ending of possessive case: -ego -su